



The Curious Club of Rome

*Is the "Club" merely a bunch of boring pedants
and doom-sayers, or is it a sinister cabal
aiming for world control?*

BY HILARY GREY

CANADA'S Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau attracted some press comment earlier this year when he walked out of the two-day Club of Rome meeting in Salzburg, Austria, despite an enthusiastic welcome by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who called him a "fellow Socialist" (*Time*, February 18, 1974).

Trudeau was upset because the Club of Rome organizers dropped about a dozen multi-paged studies on participants on the eve of the meeting (Sunday), then asked them to comment on the studies the next morning (Monday) when the meeting opened (*Toronto Star*, February 5, 1974).

Although the meeting was attended by several heads of state (Sweden, Senegal, Mexico, Ireland, Austria), this incident showed how the "party line" had been laid down beforehand by unnamed officials. According to the *Star* report, Trudeau was upset by the attempt to get the half-dozen government leaders to

go along with a ringing declaration supporting the Club of Rome's ideas that all governments must change their ways in, for example, imposing population controls. He scored the idea of "preaching to other governments."

Just what is the Club of Rome? The Club's history and aims were explained in a passage of an item in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, February 22, 1973:

"Founded in April 1968, the Club of Rome came to world attention with the publication early in 1972 of the book, *The Limits to Growth*, the result of a \$250,000 study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, financed by Volkswagen and headed by Professor Dennis Meadows who came to Toronto with Dr. Peccei and Dr. King. The study used MIT's giant computer and systems analysis to predict the effects of current world trends in population growth, pollution and the use of food and energy. It concluded that possibly within as little as 70 years, the world's economic and social systems could collapse completely unless there were drastic changes in the way man manages his planet."

Before continuing, we have to ask: has the Club of Rome, officially founded in April 1968, been functioning "invisibly" prior to this date? Or has it been launched by the semi-secret forces of the Council on Foreign Relations-Bilderberg group type as yet another world power structure?

Its Name and Connotations

The Club's name is, of course, a resurrection of the idea of empire—the ancient Roman Empire and perhaps a parody on the Holy Roman Empire, even on the Roman Catholic College of Cardinals. As Professor William Irwin Thompson says (*Time*, August 21, 1972): "So the attempt to create a Club of Rome is useful, but it's such an imperial model. First it's a club, and it's also the idea of Rome again; the old Roman imperial model of the center of civilization sending its structures out into the provinces." Prof. Thompson, formerly with MIT and York University (Toronto), is the author of a 1971 best-selling book, *At the Edge of History*. In it he predicted the emergence of a successor to the protest movement of the 1960s. "I was, however, thinking more in terms of a Cromwellian protectorate than a bunch of behavioral engineers round the world who would be trying to consolidate their power. The intriguing idea about the Club of Rome is its incredible sophistication as a prestige structure."

The Club has been described as "an organization of distinguished industrialists, bankers and scientists from 25 countries" (*Time*, August 14, 1972).

Its membership has been given as between 80 and 100 individual members. "They include scientists, educators, economists, humanists and national and international civil servants" (*Toronto Globe and Mail*, February 20, 1973).

It has a seven-man executive committee, and was founded in 1968 "largely on the initiative of Dr. Aurelio Peccei, an Italian businessman and economist." Dr. Peccei is a top official of Fiat SpA of Turin, Italy, and vice-president of Olivetti SpA of Ivrea, Italy. Co-founder is Dr. Alexander King of Scotland. He is Director-General for Scientific Affairs of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Rule by Intellectual Elite

The idea of rule by an elite of intellectuals is, of course, not confined to the Club of Rome. Ten years before its launching the head of Princeton University's Institute of Advanced Studies, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, said: "I believe that only a world council of wise men can assure peace on a scientific basis" (*Time*, May 5, 1958). Oppenheimer, the "father of the H-bomb" was fired by President Eisenhower in 1954 as a "security risk" and because of "fundamental defects in his character."

The Club's main American associates seem to be the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In the book, *The Limits to Growth*, the authors say that "economic as well as population growth must be stopped cold some time between 1975 and 1990" (*Time*, August 14, 1972).

These twin themes of gloom and doom and the necessity for "radical changes" on both the national and world levels occur incessantly in Club of Rome propaganda. If we "change radically" in the socialist direction the Club indicates, then the computerized MIT forecast will go away. Note the threat implied—very akin to Communist and World Government threats—in slogans such

as *Co-Existence or No Existence*, *A World at Peace or a World in Pieces*, *World Law or World War*, etc.

A similar threat was uttered at the Club's May 1974 Toronto meeting. An article by James Rusk in the financial section of the *Globe and Mail* (May 3, 1974) had Dr. Peccei saying, "... if the rules of the international game as it is now played are not changed, bigger and bigger crises will emerge." And who has the power to manufacture these "bigger and bigger crises?" The same forces that have the power to call off the protest movement when the world is exhausted?

World Government Proposal

At the Club's 1974 Toronto meeting, Dr. Peccei announced two more "future shock books." One is being prepared by an American and a West German university, the second by a technical institute in Argentina.

Of the decisions these books say the world has to make, Dr. Peccei said, "The only possible way to make these decisions is to take a global approach. *A new international order will have to be established, not just in the economic sphere but in social and political areas*" (*Toronto Globe and Mail*, May 3, 1974).

The Argentinian book will "study the possibility of a new society in which everybody in the world would receive a minimum amount of food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education and have certain basic rights, such as being allowed to move from area to area."

This last-named world-wide freedom of immigration has been a Communist and United Nations policy for years. Under it, the White nations are increasingly being flooded by Africans and Asians.

The Club is worried about its secrecy image. Wrote the *Globe and Mail* on February 22, 1973, in an

article on the visit to Toronto of Dr. Peccei, Dr. King and Professor Dennis Meadows, "The Club of Rome has been very sensitive to suggestions that it is a closed elite." In answer to a question at a lecture at Seneca College, Toronto, "Why are the Club of Rome's executive meetings not open to the public?", Dr. King replied somewhat lamely, "I see no reason why our executive meetings shouldn't be open but it is not practical ... and anyway the discussions are quite boring." The *Globe and Mail* report continued, "Yet the true nature of the Club of Rome remained nebulous."

Brainwashing Operations

The Club's population explosion pessimism is not original, of course. In 1952 John D. Rockefeller III founded his Population Council which spread its message throughout the world. In 1970 President Richard M. Nixon appointed this same Rockefeller Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. At the end of 1968 the Zero Population Growth Movement was launched at Yale University by Dr. Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University and Dr. Thomas Eisner of Cornell University.

In 1968 Dr. Paul Ehrlich first published his hysterical book, *The Population Bomb*, which is now compulsory reading in most North American high schools and colleges. And, the Planned Parenthood/World Population of the late Dr. Alan Guttmacher has been issuing similar propaganda for decades.

In 1967, U Thant, then Secretary General of the United Nations, began a "world-wide, five-year plan to promote birth control" and now in 1974 it is U.N. World Population Year.

All countries are being pressured to adopt compulsory population controls by the President of the

World Bank, Robert S. McNamara. No "no-win" policy this time!

The Club of Rome's policy regarding natural resources and industrialization generally is to cry "pollution" and "depletion." The atmosphere thus created prevents many immensely beneficial projects from being brought into being.

The "Earth-Day" movement echoes the same pollution/depletion line. The first Earth-Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, with the blessing of President Nixon and other world leaders. April 22, 1970 was the 100th anniversary of Lenin's birth and doubtless a kind of "code signal" to the comrades that they could safely participate in a movement not normally associated with Communism.

Propagandizing the Young

Hundreds of thousands of children and high school students were encouraged by their teachers and national leaders to demonstrate on the streets on the first Earth-Day which has subsequently become a kind of annual holiday. The young people are not only being propagandized, but are being used. Now if mobs go on the rampage, no one likes to take action against kids, do they? The revolutionary groups are well aware of this and take advantage of it.

By such means the Club of Rome, and allied bodies, can effectively limit all progress and population in our Western countries while at the same time sparing those in the Communist ones where their fiat does not need to operate.

And speaking of "fiats" it is interesting to note that Dr. Peccei's Fiat Company is now making the Russian Zhiguli car at a giant Fiat plant named Togliatti 420 miles southeast of Moscow. Dr. Peccei has yet to blow his top at the pollution *this*

three square-mile, billion-dollar plant is causing in Russia. But then the Soviets have a "multi-million ruble deal with Fiat" (*Newsweek*, June 21, 1971).

With industrialists like Peccei against industrial pollution and other members of the Club similarly engaged in seemingly contradictory roles, the typical man-in-the-street is getting suspicious and is asking that old Roman question, *Cui bono?* (Who will gain?)

The plans and programs proposed, even though in nebulous and euphemistic terms, indicate the direction. There will be hordes of privileged bureaucrats paid for by the long-suffering taxpayers of the "affluent" countries. There will be the power to prohibit any further development of industry and resources. There is the program to control the multinational corporation, though some say the Club in fact represents them. There is the proposal to divide up the world into eight regions under a Club of Rome-appointed commissar for "technocratic decision-making" purposes. There is the power to control births *and deaths*. (In the words of the President of the Canadian National Research Council, "Rigid control on the birth rate or the death rate, or both would be required to stabilize the world's population. Who is to decide who must die and who should be allowed to procreate?")

If the various proposals are realized, the Club of Rome could be literally "possessed" of such total world power that Hitler, Stalin and the Roman emperors of old would look like infants at some Sunday school outing.

So before accepting at face value the Club's alleged concern for ourselves and future generations, let us ask the timeless question raised by the great Cicero at the height of the other Roman Empire: *Cui bono?*